

**CAPITOL/DOWNTOWN
CENTRAL CORRIDOR TASK FORCE
OCTOBER 17, 2006**

MEETING NOTES

Task Force

Members Present: Susan Rani, Pat Lamb, Mike Burns, Kristina Smitten, Craig Lien, Deborah Rathman, Steve Schmidt, Phil Mason, Jerry Hersman, Michael Noble, Diane Thormodsgard

Task Force

Members Absent: John Bennett, Jose Gonzalez, David Lanegran, Ta-coumba Aiken, Larry Englund, Kim Hyers, Rhys Ledger, Paul Mohrbacher

Guests Present: Mark Voerding, Karen Lyons, Jim Barton, Tim Griffin, Josh Schuhman

Staff Present: Jess Rosenfeld, Lucy Thompson, John Maczko, Joe Spencer

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Kristina Smitten welcomed task force members, who introduced themselves. Guests were also introduced.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Review of Meeting Notes from October 3, 2006

The meeting notes were accepted as written.

Discussion of Guiding Principles

Chair Smitten reviewed the purpose of the guiding principles – to have a set of principles that address the key issues for this segment of the Central Corridor and to be used to evaluate various recommendations that will come out of the task force. Staff prepared a draft set of principles based on the task force's previous discussions, and they were the basis for the discussion. Susan Rani reported on her meeting with the Rice/University Business Leadership Roundtable regarding station name, station location and overarching principles. The task force suggested several additions and refinements to the draft, which staff will make and send out a revised version (attached). Key points included the need to minimize small business disruption, make the street-to-skyway connection visible, maintain safety for all travel modes (including cars, pedestrians and trains), and celebrate all aspects of neighborhood character.

Identification of Key Issues for Task Force Review

In order to set our agendas for the next several meetings, Chair Smitten asked the task force to identify the key issues it wants to address. The following issues were identified:

1. future redevelopment sites – building massing, parking, land use, master planning
2. pedestrian movement, including street character, design and vitality
3. alignment, including the number and location of stations
4. the opportunity LRT brings to the 21st century downtown
5. connectivity and system of movement
6. safety
7. stations – economic development, location, number

Discussion of Pros and Cons of Downtown Alignment Options

Chair Smitten led the group in a discussion of the pros and cons of the three alignments currently under discussion. She said that she would like the task force to be prepared to make a recommendation on a preferred alignment at the next meeting. Before a discussion of alternatives, **the task force agreed unanimously that LRT must go all the way to Union Depot.**

90 Turn at 4th/Cedar

Pros

- development opportunity
- visibility of route and ease of access – transit in street

Cons

- noisy
- impact on infrastructure (utilities)
- train speed is slower due to right-angle turn
- traffic disruption, congestion

Issues

- infrastructure under street
- ramp impacts

Diagonal Through 4th/Cedar

Pros

- development opportunity – placemaking
- number of stops decreased – connectivity (bus)
- aesthetically (better able to hide catenary wires)
- interior station opportunity, clear connection to skyway
- closest to RiverCentre
- less traffic disruption
- excellent access to buses at 5th/Minnesota, 6th/Cedar

Cons

- ownership
- infrastructure (utilities)

The task force will assess the third alternative (Cedar-under Kellogg-2nd street-Depot) at the November 14 meeting and recommend a preferred alignment.

Meeting Schedule for November, December

Lucy Thompson noted that the meeting dates in November and December will change due to Election Day and the holidays. The new dates are **November 14 and 28**, and **December 5 and 19**. Two additional meetings have also been scheduled. A special task force meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 26** to hear from Urban Strategies on their first draft of the vision, strategies and principles for the Central Corridor. The meeting will be 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the old Lexington Library. In addition, this material will be presented at the second Open House on **Saturday, October 28**, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the old Lexington Library. Task force members are encouraged to attend the Open House to gauge community response to the draft recommendations. Jerry Hersman mentioned that he has arranged for LRT and the Central Corridor Development Strategy to be on the agenda for the **January 8, 2007** BOMA lunch meeting. Staff will work with Jerry on the presentation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. at the old Lexington Library, 1080 University Avenue (Lexington/University).

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Thompson
Senior Planner
October 24, 2006